

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claim amendments do not introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Telephone Interview Summary

Applicants participated in a telephone interview on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005. In that interview, Examiner Almus stated that the present claim amendments appeared to overcome the art rejections cited in earlier office actions, but that a further search would be necessary. Applicants are therefore submitting a request for continued examination, with this preliminary amendment, before the deadline to respond to the final office action issued by Examiner Almus.

Conclusion

Applicants thank Examiner for entry of these amendments, and await a first office action on the merits.

January 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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